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South Union Messenger (October 1985)

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The South Union Messenger

OCTOBER 1985

Greetings from South Union. The 1985 season has been a successful one on all counts. The new gift shop increased dramatically in sales and the museum attracted over 6,000 visitors. Plans are already being made to improve the gift shop, antique mall, and museum for the 1986 season, in an attempt to become more historically accurate, and to increase the influx of tourists in our area.

CANDLELIGHT TOUR

All members and their families are cordially invited to attend Shakertown's candlelight tour of the Centre House and a reception at the Shaker Tavern on Saturday, October 26. The tour of the Centre House will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. with the reception lasting from 7:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

During the tour, which will include the first and second floors, a new technique called "living history" will be used to give the visitor the feeling that he or she has actually travelled back into time. We urge each one of you to attend as the tour promises to be an experience that will realistically recreate the mood and feel of Shakertown in the early nineteenth century.

NEW MEMBERS...WELCOME TO SHAKERTOWN AT SOUTH UNION

Edward Coffman, Madisonville, Kentucky
Steven Drone, Pulaski, Tennessee
Melinda Engelking, Columbus, Indiana
Mary Lee Hancock, Henderson, Kentucky
Harmon Hill, Auburn, Kentucky
Luetta House, Merriville, Indiana
Dr. & Mrs. H.T. Lovett, Starkville, Mississippi
Ann O'Hara, Houston, Texas
Sarah Graves Smila, Glasgow, Kentucky

Recent restoration activity at South Union has prompted the discovery of some fine Shaker workmanship. The ca. ~~1840~~ 1835 dairy preservatory is currently being studied and prepared for an extensive restoration to be completed by the summer of 1986. The two-story brick structure, which originally had three rooms on the first floor and two rooms on the second, was used to preserve dairy products and as sleeping quarters.

Since the Shakers left South Union in 1922, the building had been used as a single family dwelling. Various remodelings and redecorations had left the building's interior devoid of evidence of Shaker workmanship. But as modern paneling and flooring are being pulled away, more and more discoveries are being made. Carved panel doors and door facings, beaded board stair walls with blue stain, gracefully arched brick fireplaces, and mortised poplar beam ceilings were all found behind 1950's paneling and cork-board ceiling tiles.

The first floor of the preservatory will be open for the 1986 Shaker festival in July. The building will house various craft demonstrations during the festival and, for the remainder of the year, become an extension of the museum's exhibition plan. The second story, which boasts original plaster and blue-stained peg boards will be restored as funds become available. Contributions to aid in the building's restoration are being accepted.

Special thanks to Mrs. Zula Trogden and her daughter, Edna, for their detailed drawings of the preservatory as it looked when the Trogdens became the building's first residents after the Shakers left in the 1920's.

SPECIAL THANKS TO SHAKERTOWN'S VOLUNTEERS

Mrs. Andrew Holland, Woodburn
Dorothy Wallace, Russellville
Mrs. Hope Scantlin, Bowling Green
Laura Nealy, Nashville, Tennessee
Mrs. John Marbury, Auburn
Kerrie Elliott, Bowling Green
Daphne Watkins, Richpond
Dianne Watkins, Richpond

Dave Wilkinson and the members of the Alpha Phi Omega
fraternity for painting the picket fence around the Centre House.

The many volunteers who helped with the 1985 Shaker Festival.

RECENT MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

Matted photograph of the current Sabbathday Lake Shakers in
meeting, donated by Dave Wilkinson, Bowling Green, Kentucky

South Union straight chair, donated by Mrs. Catherine Thurman

Cast-iron railroad stove, donated by Bill and Thelma (Sweatt)
Childress

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

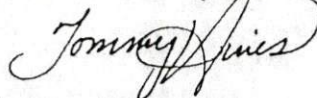
The 1985 season at Shakertown at South Union was a big
success due to the many fine volunteers and employees. There
has been a lot of progress in the improvement of the museum
exhibits, the gift shop, the grounds, and in the area of
restoration. Many thanks to all who have had a part this
summer.

I hope you all will plan to attend the candlelight tour
of the Centre House and the reception at the Shaker Tavern.
The event has been planned for you, the members of Shakertown,
and I believe it will be quite an experience for everyone
involved.

Restoration plans are always exciting and the work going
on at South Union is no exception. The preservatory is
coming along nicely and some plaster and paint work has begun
in the Centre House. There is still so much that needs to
be done and your continued support is very important to us.
If you have any ideas about projects you would like to see
carried out at Shakertown, drop me a line and voice your
opinions and concerns.

See you at the candlelight tour.

Thanks for your support,



Tommy Hines